

REMARKS

The indication of the allowability of dependent Claims 21, 23, and 25 is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 21 has been canceled and now is presented in independent form as new Claim 27.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of presently solicited Claims 1 to 4, 13 to 20, 22 to 25, and 27 respectfully are requested. For the reasons indicated hereafter each of these claims is urged to similarly be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to delete reference to alloys of CoPd, NiPd, NiCu, PdZn and PtCu. Also, reference to these alloys does not presently appear in dependent Claims 3, 14, and 18. Claim 26 is canceled in a further effort to expedite prosecution.

The continued rejection presently solicited Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15 to 17, 19, 20, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the different teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,716,087 to Ito et al. would be inappropriate. Reference to a platinum-copper alloy has been deleted from presently solicited independent Claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 13, 15 to 17, 19, 20, 22, and 24 are dependent either directly or indirectly upon the subject matter of Claim 1. The withdrawal of the rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The continued rejection of presently solicited Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the different teachings of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0054246 to Guruswamy et al. would similarly be inappropriate. Reference to NiPd and CoPd alloys has been deleted from presently solicited independent Claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 13, 20 and 22 depend either directly or indirectly upon the subject matter of Claim 1. The withdrawal of the rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The continued rejection of presently solicited Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the different teachings of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0048356 to Ihringer et al. would likewise be inappropriate. Reference to NiCu alloy has been deleted from presently solicited Claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22, and 24 depend either directly or independently upon the subject matter of Claim 1. The withdrawal of the rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Finally, the continued rejection of presently solicited Claims 1 to 4, 13 to 20, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the different teachings of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0038808 to Hampden-Smith et al. would be similarly lacking a sound basis. Reference to PdZn alloy has been deleted from presently solicited independent Claim 1. Claims 2 to 4, 13 to 20, 22 and 24 depend either directly or indirectly upon the subject matter of Claim 1. The withdrawal of this rejection also is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.



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If there is any remaining point that requires clarification prior to the formal allowance of the Application, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter can be discussed and promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: December 20, 2006

By: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Benton S. Duffett, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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